

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
201 12th Street South
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452



MAR 02 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR NEAL H. MERRIFIELD
Administrator for Metal and
Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

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Federal Occupational Health
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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

SYED HAFEEZ *Syed Hafeez*
Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources

SUBJECT: Chargeability Review Committee Decision

Case No.: 2015-M-31-[REDACTED]

Deceased: [REDACTED]

Date of Incident: August 03, 2015

Date of Death: August 03, 2015

Operator: New Mexico Salt &
Minerals Corp.

Mine: New Mexico Salt & Minerals
Corp.

Autopsy Conducted: Released
September 28, 2015

Death Certificate Released: November
06, 2015

Decision: Not chargeable

In a unanimous decision, the Chargeability Review Committee has determined that the death of [REDACTED] should not be charged to the mining industry. Mr. [REDACTED], a 61-year old laborer, was shoveling spilled material under the dryer when he indicated that he felt dizzy. A co-worker noticed his eyes roll back as he rested on a bench in the control room. Mine employees began CPR until emergency medical technicians arrived. The resuscitation attempts failed and Mr. [REDACTED] was pronounced dead at the mine site.

The certificate of death indicated that the manner of death was natural and that the cause was atherosclerotic and hypertensive cardiovascular disease. The autopsy report listed the cause of death to be toxic effects of methamphetamine with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease as a significant contributory condition. The manner of death was listed as natural.

MSHA's investigation was conducted between August 03, 2015 and August 25, 2015. No physical or environmental factors that could have contributed to the death were identified.

Based on these findings, the committee members concluded that Mr. [REDACTED] died due to natural causes and that his death should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main
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Laura V. McClintock